

**Dario of Oak Hollow writes:** Chief, On Tuesday of last week, I had an encounter with an ambulance on 455. He was coming up behind me. I had nowhere to go, so I sped up so I could use the falls entrance to get out of the way. Would I get a ticket for speeding up in that situation? What is a guy to do when there is no place to pull over and let the ambulance pass?

Hello Dario,

I can't give anyone permission to speed, no matter the circumstances. It is possible that a citation could be written for speeding in the circumstances you describe, but highly unlikely. But, speeding up was not necessary in this case as Texas traffic law tells us what to do upon the approach of an emergency vehicle:

- (1) Yield the right-of-way;
- (2) immediately **drive to a position parallel to and as close as possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection**; and
- (3) **stop and remain standing** until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed.

As you can see, a driver need not panic upon the approach of an emergency vehicle because of a lack of space on the road, as the law does not require you to get off of the roadway. What it does require is that all motorists, including those travelling in opposite directions on the same roadway, pull as far to the right as possible and stop. If all drivers do that, an emergency vehicle should be able to get through without problem.

Emergency vehicles have been operating on the traffic ways of this country since their invention. They should be something we are all used to. When driving, stay alert, keep your eyes moving, check your mirror regularly, slowly pull over and stop until the emergency vehicle passes, and then carefully proceed. Thanks for your Email.

**\*Phone numbers: Emergency???? Dial 911.** To have a police officer sent to you in a non-emergency, call 972-547-5350. During normal business hours, the APD number is 972-924-2848.

If you have a question or comment, please email: [kjenks@annatexas.gov](mailto:kjenks@annatexas.gov)